



UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

August 31, 2006

Dr. Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dr. Coburn:

In response to your letter concerning appropriations received by the University of New Orleans, the University of New Orleans contacted Anna Shopen to respectfully request an extension to provide the information you requested. The University of New Orleans is located near the breach of the London Avenue Canal and in one of the most severely affected areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Every building on UNO's lakefront campus sustained significant wind and water damage which resulted in the loss of documents and research materials. Although the university's main campus reopened on January 30, 2006, some buildings remained closed due to mold remediation. The University of New Orleans is in the process of reconstructing records lost during the Hurricane and will provide a full detailed response to your request on or before September 30, 2006.

In the interim, the University provides the following partial response to your inquiry:

4. Does your institution have a stated policy regarding congressional earmarks or appropriations (if so, please describe). Does your institution have a policy regarding partnering in research projects with other universities who may have a differing policy?

It is the policy of the University of New Orleans that any congressionally directed funding is intended to supplement, not substitute, competitive funding awards from federal agencies. As such, directed congressional funding is intended to allow the University to build capacity to vie for competitive funding in areas of strategic importance to the University.

The University of New Orleans does actively seek partners, including university and industry, for congressional directed projects based on the areas of technical merit and common expertise. The University considers all partners on a case by case basis utilizing a variety of factors.

5. Has your institution considered hiring a lobbyist to assist your institution in attaining familiarity with the opportunities that may exist to obtain Federal funds for research – such as the earmarking process?

As a state institution, the University of New Orleans is prohibited from employing lobbyists for this purpose. The University of New Orleans Foundation, a private 501©3 organization, does, however, employ the lobbying firms of Adams and Reese and The Livingston Group, to assist in this process.

6. In conclusion, do you find congressionally earmarked funds to have contributed in a substantive way to your academic institution?

As indicated in response number 4, congressionally directed funding allows the University of New Orleans to build capacity to vie for competitive funding in areas of strategic importance to the University. Congressional directed funding is intended to seed those areas of competence and strategic importance of the University which will allow programs to secure funding from other sources. As such, congressionally directed funds have contributed in a substantial way to the academic and research mission of the University.

As a general rule, projects which have received funding for a period of three years should have established a basis for funding support through competitive grants, agency funding, private donors or partnerships with industry. As part of the university's vigorous process for consideration of congressionally directed funding, any proposal for a new center or program must have a demonstrated track record of actively seeking and securing other forms of funding. Proposals for new centers or programs must also submit a specific strategy to seek and obtain competitive funding if it is to be funded.

Please let me know if I can offer additional information about any of the responses provided above and thank you for allowing the University of New Orleans additional time to provide a more detailed response to your inquiry.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Ryan
Chancellor